



Minutes of the State Board of Health

January 9, 2013

Great Wolf Lodge - Grand Mound

20500 Old Highway 99 SW, Centralia, WA 98531

State Board of Health members present:

The Honorable John Austin, PhD, Chair
Fran Besserman
Keith Grellner, Vice-Chair
Stephen Kutz
Thomas Pendergrass, MD, MSPH

Mary C. Selecky
James Sledge, DDS
The Honorable Donna Wright
Diana T. Yu, MD, MSPH

State Board of Health members absent:

Donald Oliver

State Board of Health staff present:

Michelle Davis, Executive Director
Desiree Robinson, Executive Assistant
Christy Hoff, Health Policy Analyst
Yris Lance, Community Relations Liaison

Gordon MacCracken, Communications Consultant
Ned Therien, Health Policy Analyst
Tara Wolff, Health Policy Analyst

Guests and other participants:

Vicki Bouvier, Department of Health
Ann Clifton, Mercury Action Team of Washington
Jenny Hamilton, Health Care Authority

Katie Johnson, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
Martin Mueller, Department of Health
Tami Thompson, Department of Health

John Austin, Board Chair, called the public meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. and read from a prepared statement (on file).

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Approve January 9, 2013 agenda

Motion/Second: Sledge/Pendergrass. Approved unanimously

2. ADOPTION OF NOVEMBER 14, 2012 MEETING MINUTES

Motion: Approve the November 14, 2012 minutes

Motion/Second: Wright/Yu. Approved unanimously

3. HONORING DEPARTING BOARD MEMBERS

Chair Austin asked Vice-Chair Keith Grellner to read proposed resolutions to honor the service of Maria Hernandez-Peck and Patricia Ortiz. Diana Yu, Board Member, commented that Dr. Hernandez-Peck was a pleasure to work with and that she has prompted lively discussion. Fran Besserman, Board Member, commented that Dr. Hernandez-Peck has been a passionate advocate for seniors. James Sledge, Board Member, said that he would miss Dr. Ortiz's pragmatic thinking especially in the area of immunizations. Member Yu recounted how she first met Dr. Ortiz and how much she appreciated her creative solutions and scientific mind. Stephen Kutz, Board Member, said he admired Dr. Ortiz's work and that he wished she

worked in his clinic. Chair Austin said that Dr. Ortiz's high energy will be missed by all. Donna Wright, Board Member, commented on how welcoming she found Dr. Ortiz and how much she learned from her leadership style and wisdom.

***Motion:** The Board approves Resolution 13-01 to honor Dr. Hernandez-Peck.*

***Motion/Second:** Yu/Sledge. Approved unanimously*

***Motion:** The Board approves Resolution 13-02 to honor Dr. Patricia Ortiz.*

***Motion/Second:** Sledge/Kutz. Approved unanimously*

4. WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Chair Austin welcomed new Board members Fran Bessermin and Dr. Thomas Pendergrass. He pointed out brief biographies for each of them behind Tab 04 in members' packets. Please refer to the biographies for more detail.

5. BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER BUSINESS

Michelle Davis, Board Executive Director, pointed out the *Local Health Jurisdiction Funding Report*. This report includes data on revenue and expenditures for each local health jurisdiction and all local health jurisdictions in aggregate. She acknowledged the two new members Dr. Tom Pendergrass and Ms. Fran Bessermin to the Board. Ms. Davis indicated that Board staff had monitored a number of committee work sessions, during legislative assembly. Ms. Davis attended the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee meeting convened by the Department of Health. The advisory committee is committed to creating a plan to prepare for and respond to public health emergencies and threats. It consists of public and private organizations, and meets twice a year.

Ms. Davis reported the US Senate and House of Representatives took action to avert the fiscal cliff. Their action (American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012) delays federal sequestration until March 1, 2013. It lowers the budget caps for FY 2013 and 2014, which means there will be federal discretionary funding reductions over the next two years. It is not clear how these cuts will impact federal funding for public health programs.

Ms. Davis called the Board's attention to the signed MOU between the Board and the Department. She said the Board received two public disclosure requests since the Board met last. She plans to provide regular email updates to the Board throughout session on the bills that we are tracking. She explained that Governor Gregoire's rules moratorium ended December 31, 2012. She announced that Gordon MacCracken, communications consultant, was offered a promotional opportunity at the Department of Health.

Member Kutz reported the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities approved an updated State Policy Action Plan to Eliminate Health Disparities on December 6. Staff submitted the plan to the Governor's office and it was approved late last night. He noted Christy Curwick-Hoff gave the Board an update about the draft report at its November meeting.

Member Yu reported on developments since the Board's motion for Severe Combined Immune Deficiency (SCID) testing was passed in June 2012. She said the Department submitted a decision package that is in Governor Gregoire's proposed budget. The Board's Health Promotions Committee and Chair Austin wrote the Health Care Authority (HCA) and requested confirmation that the January 2014 contract rebase for hospital services include an increase to allow newborns in Washington to be screened for SCID. The Board received a letter from HCA Director Lindeblad, providing assurance that screening for SCID is good public health policy, and that it would be included in the 2014 inpatient rate rebase. (The letter is under tab 5.)

Thomas Pendergrass, Board Member, commented on the importance of identifying newborns with SCID as early as possible. Member Selecky said King 5 had done a piece on SCID the night before. It included interviews with Dr. Skoda-Smith and a patient's parent.

Member Kutz asked for an explanation about what the expiration on Governor Gregoire's moratorium on rule making means. Ms. Davis said rule making activities were significantly reduced under the moratorium, but there were exemptions that allowed some rule making to go ahead. She said the Board put several rule making processes on hold, which could go forward without a moratorium from Governor Inslee.

6. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH UPDATE

Mary C. Selecky, Secretary of Health & Board Member, said this is a time of many transitions, one being the retirement of Deputy Secretary Gregg Grunenfelder at the end of this month. She said he will be honored on January 31 at a modest event fitting his personality. She commented that the Washington Restaurant Association continues to praise the recently concluded revision process for to the food service rules, which involved the Department and the Board.

Secretary Selecky reported that flu season has arrived early this year across the nation, with six deaths already in this state. She urged all to get their flu shot. Member Yu echoed her comments on the importance of people getting correct information about flu shots and said they could call their local health department if they have questions. Member Kutz said he became ill a few days before Christmas and was confirmed to have the flu, even though he had gotten a shot. He commented on the severity of his illness. Member Yu commented that even though getting a shot is the best protection, it is not 100% effective. She said actions like covering your cough and washing hands helps prevent the spread. Secretary Selecky reported on the whooping cough epidemic and said Washington had 11% of all the cases across the country in 2012. She said she is still not ready to declare the epidemic over. The rate of new cases is still higher than in past years.

Secretary Selecky explained that the United Health Foundation ranks states' health status each year. The ranking of Washington fell from 9th in 2011 to 13th in 2012. She said the drop in ranking is related to factors such as percent of children living in poverty and percent of people without health insurance. She said immunization rates also remain a challenge, although great improvement occurred last year.

Secretary Selecky reported that tobacco sales to minors have climbed to the highest level for a decade in this state. She noted, except for some funding to the quit line, we are moving into the fifth year of no funding for anti-tobacco efforts. She reported Governor Gregoire released a proposed budget for the coming biennium. She said she is pleased that some funding for the Tobacco Quitline is included, as well as funding for the prescription monitoring program. She said she expects this will be the starting point for discussions until the next revenue forecast is released in March. She said the Department has three pieces of request legislation this session: (1) electronic prescriptions; (2) aligning hospital health care-associated infection rate reporting with federal standards; and (3) licensing provisions for certain medical professionals trained outside this country.

Secretary Selecky reported that Governor-elect Inslee is assembling his management team and starting to announce agency-head appointments on his web site. She expects these people will be unveiled slowly over the next few months. Appointments are prioritized for agencies where the heads have already announced they are leaving.

Member Pendergrass commented on the importance of grandparents and other adults being up to date on immunizations to protect infants and other vulnerable members of the community. He also commented on the need for a continual push for tobacco prevention programs and ways to track prescriptions to avoid

abuse of narcotics. Member Kutz commented on the importance of controlling retailers who sell tobacco to minors. He said small retailers rely on sales of alcohol and tobacco for a large part of profits. Loss of the license to sell is an important threat.

Secretary Selecky said the Department has a role under Initiative 502, which legalized recreational marijuana. The Department will be involved, in an educational role, late in the process of implementing the initiative.

7. BRIEFING—SBOH AUTHORITY

Ned Therien, Board Staff explained that the Board's authority comes from the state constitution. The composition of the Board is specified under RCW 43.20.030, and the Board's general authority for rules is spelled out under RCW 43.20.050. The powers and authorities of the Board are stated in many statutes. The document under Tab 7 (Powers and duties of the Washington State Board of Health) lays out all of the relevant statutes by subject area. Mr. Therien then reviewed the document with Board members by subject title. Ms. Davis thanked Mr. Therien for his work on the document and complimented him on the final product.

8. PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Ann Clifton, Mercury Action Team of Washington, testified that the Lummi Nation considers Cherry Point, near Bellingham, sacred ground. She said that pollution is of concern because of high fish consumption rates amongst Indian Peoples. [Cherry Point is a proposed coal terminal location.] She asked the Board to encourage the Department of Ecology to recognize fish consumption rates as high as Oregon has established. Ms. Clifton also provided written material.

The Board took a break at 10:45 a.m. and reconvened at 11:05 a.m.

9. 2014 MEDICAID EXPANSION

Chair Austin introduced Jenny Hamilton, Health Care Authority, who gave a briefing on the Affordable Care Act's expansion of Medicaid eligibility. Her presentation explained new coverage options under the Affordable Care Act; estimated numbers of new enrollees; and ongoing discussions on the timeline, federal guidance needed in some key areas, opportunities to streamline programs, and 2014 benefits for newly covered adults. For more detail on her presentation, please refer to Tab 9. Secretary Selecky commented on slide 21 and clarified the Department's breast and cervical screening program applies to low income women without insurance, but that if women have positive screens then they can go into the Health Care Authority programs for treatment. The Department plans to ramp down its programs given budget reductions and new eligibility options. The Department's family planning funding is to provide access rather than to provide services to individual women. Member Kutz talked about special provisions for Indians and a list of issues affecting them. He explained the need to make sure people have access to dental care. Ms. Hamilton said that many of the issues Member Kutz mentioned were raised at a retreat held with the American Indian Health Commission and in monthly sessions held with tribes. She acknowledged that there is more work to be done with tribes. Member Pendergrass commented that Washington is further ahead than other states and applauded the Health Care Authority's efforts.

10. AGENDA FOR CHANGE

Member Yu introduced Tara Wolff, Board Staff, and Martin Mueller, Department of Health. Mr. Mueller gave a briefing on the *Agenda for Change Action Plan* for Washington's public health network. His presentation included background information, the development process, who has been involved, the status of the work, and next steps. The presentation is included under Tab 10 in the meeting materials packet and on the Web site.

Member Yu commented that she frequently says public health is everyone's job. She said foundational public health extends beyond public health services provided by government in a community. She said it is important for communities to understand that health is maintained and improved through prevention activities, not just through medical services. Member Bessermin commented on the volunteer resources that seniors could provide to boost prevention activities in a community. She said the life-course approach is important and should be considered in areas such as safety for seniors. Member Kutz said everything in the plan resonates with him and complimented Mr. Mueller on the good work. Member Wright said the City of Marysville was able to promote healthy life styles by working with community partners. She cited some examples such as walking groups and community gardens.

11. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE—SENSE OF THE BOARD

Ms. Davis pointed out a draft sense of the Board for the 2013 legislative session in the members' packets. She said the statement would serve to guide staff on what bills to monitor, report about to Board members, and possibly develop position statements to the Legislature. She said the draft sense of the Board retains much of what was in the 2012 statement. It includes statements about support for the Agenda for Change, immunization of people who work with vulnerable populations, linkages between oral health and total health, access to counselors and nurses in schools, policies to encourage active lives for older adults, promoting environmental justice.

Member Kutz, recommended revising the statement on evidence-based practices to include cost effective practices. Vice-Chair Grellner recommended adding "peer reviewed" to science regarding on-site systems. Member Pendergrass recommended adding a statement about alcohol and drug abuse and recommended adding a statement about safe storage of firearms in the context of protecting children. Member Kutz suggested adding something about marijuana abuse. Secretary Selecky suggested waiting until next year for that, but suggested adding a bullet about injury prevention to capture the safe storage of firearms issue, amongst others. Ms. Davis asked if the issues under that bullet should include a statement about senior fall prevention and safe routes to schools. She received affirmation of that. She reviewed the changes requested by the Board at this meeting.

***Motion:** The Board adopts the amended Statement of Policy on Possible 2013 Legislative Issues as submitted on January 9, 2013.*

***Motion/Second:** Kutz/Yu. Approved unanimously*

12. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Member Pendergrass said he was impressed with the variety of topics addressed today. Member Kutz said he appreciated the choice of meeting location.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Austin adjourned the meeting at 12:54 p.m.

WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

John Austin, Chair